

Celebrant: The Rev'd. Stuart Hallam
Preacher: The Rev'd. Stuart Hallam

DATES TO NOTE

Today	Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am, Fireside Room
Mon. Feb. 10	Monday Mantras, 10:00 am, Garden Room
Mon. Feb. 17	Family Day, office closed
Tues. Feb. 18	Parish Council, 7:30 pm, Garden Room
Sun. Feb. 23	Annual Vestry Meeting, 11:30 am, Fireside Room
Wed. Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of Ashes, 7:00 pm, Church
Mon. Mar. 2	Lenten Study Series, 7:00 pm, Upstairs Meeting Room
Mon. Mar. 9	Lenten Study Series, 7:00 pm, Church
Sat. Mar. 14	Kairos Blanket Exercise,
Mon. Mar.16	Lenten Study Series, 7:00 pm, Church



ANNUAL REPORTS

The Annual Reports have been printed and physical copies are available to collect in the Narthex. Please bring your copy to the Annual Vestry Meeting, which will follow the 10 am service on Sunday, February 23, 2020.

CHURCH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

The church school leaders will be holding a church school open house **today** after church in the Godly Play room (upstairs — used to be the Rectors office). We welcome and encourage all parishioners to come and view a modified Godly play class and see what this class as well as our other two church school classes are all about. Parents — this is your chance to see what your kids have been up to during the services. We hope to see you there!!



DONOR APPRECIATION DAY REPRESENTATIVES

The Outreach Committee has received an invitation to attend a Donor Appreciation Day event from Queen Alexandra Elementary School, one of the 2 elementary schools St Philip's supported through the Christmas Hamper Drive. Outreach wishes to invite **2 parishioners** to attend this event with Debbie Matheson on Thursday, Feb. 13 from 4-6:30pm; there will be snacks and entertainment. Address: 1300 East Broadway, Vancouver; in the Lunchroom, 1st Floor. If you are interested in attending, please contact Joanne Vondette (jvondette@gmail.com) by Sunday, Feb 9.

LENTEN STUDY SERIES

This year's study series is based on the book "How to be a Bad Christian... And a Better Human Being" by Dave Tomlinson. The Lenten Study Series will be held on Monday evenings from March 2 - April 5. The first session will be held on Monday, March 2nd in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Subsequent sessions will be held in the prayer square in the Sanctuary (in front of Noah's Ark).



LIGHTING ASSISTANCE

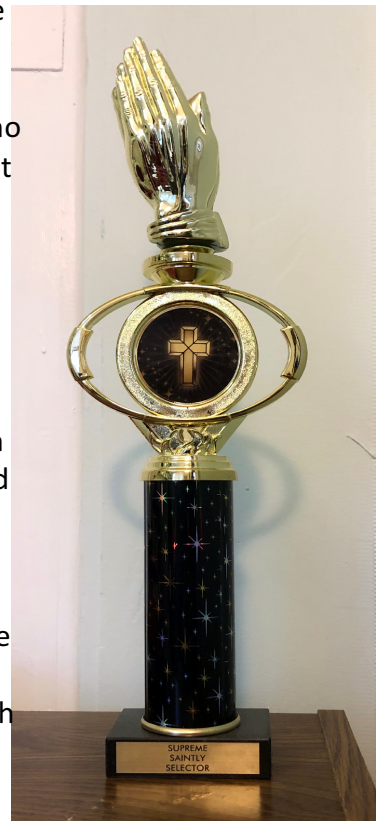
Thanks to a generous donation from Mike Wenzlaff & Harper Hadden we are converting the lighting in the Gym and Sanctuary to energy saving LED. Pat needs 2 volunteers to assist in the switch over on an upcoming Friday, Saturday and Sunday (Feb. 14-16, Family Day long weekend). The process is expected to take 6 hours per day. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gym for 2-hour increment shifts available for those interested in assisting in this project. We all will be enlightened!

LENT MADNESS AND SUPREME SAINTLY SELECTOR COMPETITION IS BACK!

Just when you thought Lent couldn't possibly become even more penitential, have we got an online hair shirt for you! Want to be inspired by some saintly souls this Lent and have fun along the way? Join with thousands of Christians across denominations who have discovered the joyful online learning community that is Lent Madness. Participants are inspired by the ways in which God has worked through the lives of saintly souls across generations and cultures.

Throughout Lent, thirty-two saints will do battle to win the coveted Golden Halo. On the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. The winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo.

Parish Manager Beth has created a friendly competition for those interested in vying for "Supreme Saintly Selector" and winning the kitschy trophy on display in her office. Simply email Beth each weekday with the name of the saint you voted for. Whoever is the most accurate selector of the winning saints will win the trophy. Beth Vondette manager@stpdunbar.com





A MESSAGE FROM THE WARDENS

We need to talk... about parish finances. Or more specifically, about how we allocate our resources in our yearly operating budget. Our upcoming Annual Vestry meeting on February 23 is the perfect opportunity to have this important “family talk”.

Nearly 80% of St. Philip’s annual operating budget comes directly from parishioner donations. These generous gifts are used to support everything we do here, from ministries and programs, to salaries and keeping the heat and lights on.

Many of our financial obligations are fixed costs which increase from year to year with the general cost of living. For example, in a typical year, staff salaries, administrative costs, and property maintenance take up around 55% of our budget, while the Diocesan Assessment (our contribution to the wider Diocese) takes up another 15% – leaving only 30% of our budget to support ministries and programs such as Sunday services, Christian formation, and community outreach.

Of that 30%, more than one third is typically made up of “designated” gifts – that is, donations designated for a particular use by the donor, such as Outreach, Music, and the Memorial Garden. Designating your gift is a way for your personal priorities to be reflected in how your gift gets used.

While it is natural to want to donate to a specific cause that is close to your heart, designating your gift is not always the best approach. Designated gifts can only be used for the purpose specified by the donor, and as such are unavailable for other needs. This causes significant budgeting issues. St. Paul likened the church to the human body, saying that all parts are necessary for the whole body to function. Designated gifts can end up being generous to the “hands” of our parish activities while inadvertently overlooking the important job of the feet.

Since 2015, our annual income from identified givers has fallen by \$100,000. Because of this, St. Philip’s has run deficit budgets several years in a row. We have frequently been in the position of having excess money in various Designated Funds, thanks to generous and well-meaning donors, while not having enough money in our General Fund to cover our basic financial obligations. This model is financially unsustainable. It also restricts our ability to respond to pressing financial needs and impacts our ability to reflect overall parish priorities in how we steward our resources.

The Wardens would like to have a St. Philip’s family discussion about a new model – one that allows for a flexible and strategic allocation of all our resources to support all of our ministries. This model, proposed to begin in 2021, would support various ministries with a percentage of the overall budget, instead of the amounts received as designated gifts in any given year. The annual budget would continue to be put to Vestry for approval each year, ensuring that everyone’s voice is heard and our parish priorities are appropriately reflected in our budget allocations.

We understand some donors might still wish to give to a fund that is close to their hearts, while also giving to the General Fund. This will still be possible. However, in the new model, various ministries will be supported by a percentage of everyone's gifts, rather than just by designated gifts. We think this is a better way to make sure that all of St. Philip's ministries are supported by everyone in our parish family.

Please add your voice to this important family conversation at Vestry on February 23. If you have questions, suggestions, or concerns prior to Vestry, please feel free to speak to any of the Wardens: Diana Bragg, Debbie Matheson, Craig Wilson and Brian Mix.

Yours,
The Wardens

